(iv) To help augment the oil/gas production by way of quickly putting these fields on production.

(v) For the application of enhanced oil recovery processes.

(vi) To induct the latest managerial and technological practices.

**Ramagundam Power Project**

*92. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned a Thermal Power Project to be set up at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proposals of both NTPC and a private developer to set up additional generation facilities of about 500 MW each at Ramagundam had been received for accord of techno-economic clearance by CEA. These were returned to them to obtain other requisite clearances such as Coal Linkage, Water availability and Environmental permissions. The final sanctions for these proposals could be considered by respective Governments after CEA's techno-economic clearance is obtained by the promoters.

*[Translation]*

**Indian Food Trade and Development Organisation**

*93. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Food Trade and Development Organisation has been doing any research in the development of Fruit Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government is likely to take a final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) The Ministry is not aware of any such body as Indian Food Trade and Development Organisation doing research in the fruit processing sector.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

**Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets**

*94. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are no proper facility for petrol and diesel retail outlets in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether petrol pumps are located only in some selected towns whereas hilly people live in remote areas;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to open petrol pumps in these remote areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d). Oil Industry has a vast network of 164 retail outlets covering urban as well as remote areas of nine hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. District wise details are indicated below :

| | District | Total |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Nainital | 58 |
| 2. | Udhamsingh Nagar | 25 |
| 3. | Pithoragarh | 5 |
| 4. | Almorah | 7 |
| 5. | Dehradun | 41 |
| 6. | Uttarkashi | 3 |
| 7. | Tehri Garhwal | 6 |
| 8. | Chamoli | 7 |
| 9. | Pauri Garhwal | 12 |
| | | 164 |

In addition to the above, 17 more retail outlets are proposed in the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh.

*[English]*

**ONGC Investment**

*95. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC propose to invest 25,000 crores in 9th five year plan;

(b) if so, the main projects on which this amount is likely to be spent;

(c) whether all the projects that were launched in Eighth Five Year Plan have been completed; and

(d) to what extent this investment during Ninth Plan by ONGC will be able to enhance oil production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) ONGC proposes to invest a sum of about Rs. 23,400 crores during the 9th Plan.

(b) The amount is proposed to be spent on survey, exploratory drilling, development drilling and production related schemes.

(c) A number of projects launched in the VIII Five Year Plan have been completed and some are in active stage of implementation.

(d) The projected oil production by ONGC duirng IX Plan period will be of the order of around 145 million tonnes.

**Import of LPG**

*96. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Enron have submitted any proposal for import of Liquified Natural Gas from Qatar and its sale in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects, and area to be catered thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Development of Bio-Technology**

*97. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the specific steps taken by the Government during the last three years for the development of biotechnology in the country;

(b) the achievements made in this regard during the above period and also during the current year so far; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for development of bio-technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c). During the last three years, concerted support has been provided for development of new areas of biotechnology covering transgenic research, seribiotechnolgy, human genetics, food biotechnology, development of diagnostic kits, setting up of a new Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagnostics, and expansion of the human resource development activity. A special effort has been made to develop biotechnology based programmes for SC/ST populations and in different States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Haryana, etc. There have been many research leads available in terms of transgenic plants, diagnostic kits, and biofertilizers and biocontrol agents. More than 25 lakh plants raised from tissue culture are being planted in the field covering an area of 1080 ha. Tissue cultured cardamom has given 40% increase in the yield covering an area of 102 ha. Protocols for multiplication of economically important species have been perfected. Eight new biopesticide formulations have been developed and two pilot plants are producing biocontrol agents for the use by the farmers. For biofertilizers, 7000 experimental demostrations have been conducted and about 6000 farmers trained in the use of blue green algae and rhizobial technolgy. Probes for sexing of embryos have been tested with 100% accuracy. The leprosy vaccine is under Phase-III clinical trials with encouraging results. Liposomal intercalated amphotericin B has been successful in clearing systemic fungal infection. More than 10,000 scientists are using the bioinformatics network, set up by the department. More than 30 demostration projects have been given good results for the SC/ST population, benefitting about 15,000 target groups. Biodiversity conservation through molecular approaches has been successful in mangroves and in some parts of Rajasthan, and Gujarat. The gene banks for medicinal and aromatic plants have thousands of accessions and are also helping the farmers by providing high quality planting material of important species. Very close linkages have been established with state level institutions, universities, departments, voluntary agencies and other national laboratories.

The realise the full potential of biotechnology, a major thrust will be provided for bioproduct development, specially using the biological resources of the country. Mission mode programmes, research and development, and demonstration activities would be started in the: emerging area of genome mapping, transgenic research, combinatorial chemistry, drug designing and drug development, prospecting of biological resources, developing of diagnostics for new infections, genetic counselling, setting up of genetic enhancement centres and micropropagation parks, etc. The necessary biosafety guidelines have also been evolved. Human resource programme would be expanded in other regions of the country taking note of the location specific requirements and training needs.

**Agency Administering Freehold Property**

*98. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of agencies currently administering the conversion of leasehold properties in Delhi into freehold;